

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 05827 090948Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 HA-05 /083 W
-----049188 091123Z /20

R 090743Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 275
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, SREF, CH, VM
SUBJECT: LOCAL PRC-CONTROLLED PRESS ON CHINESE IN VIETNAM

1. SUMMARY: THE HONG KONG PRC-CONTROLLED PRESS HAS STRONGLY ATTACKED VIETNAMESE STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE OVERSEAS CHINESE PROBLEM, COMPARING HANOI'S ACTIONS WITH THOSE INSTITUTED BY THE DIEM GOVERNMENT DURING THE 1950'S. DISAGREEMENT IS CENTERED ON DIVERGENT VIEWS REGARDING THE CITIZENSHIP OF THE CHINESE COMMUNITY AND WHETHER THEIR EMIRGATION IS LEGAL OR NOT. THE NEWSPAPERS SUGGEST THAT THE SOVIETS MIGHT HAVE INSPIRED THESE EVENTS TO UNDERMINE SINO-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. VIETNAMESE CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY XUAN THUY'S MAY 4 STATEMENT ACCUSING OVERSEAS CHINESE IN VIETNAM OF SPREADING RUMORS, DAMAGING SINO-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEAVING THE COUNTRY ILLEGALLY HAS BEEN STRONGLY CRITICIZED BY SEVERAL HONG KONG PRC-CONTROLLED PRESS CMMENTARIES IN RECENT DAYS. THE PAPERS IMPLIED THAT THE SRV WAS FOLLOWING THE POLICY OF THE DIEM GOVERNMENT IN THE 1950'S IN FORCING CHINESE CITIZENS TO CHANGE THEIR NATIONALITY, ADDING THAT SINCE IT IS NOW A SOCILIST GOVERMENT, HANOI "SHOULD BE DIFFERENT FROM THE PREVIOUS PUPPET REGIME."

SINCE THE 1950'S VIETNAMIZATION OF THE CHINESE WAS FORCED AND NOT VOLUNTARY, CHINA STILL CONSIDERS MOST OF THE CHINESE TO BE ITS CITIZENS. CHINA THEREFORE IS COMPELLED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE RIGHTFUL INTERESTS OF ITS CITIZENS ABROAD. SIMILARLY, AS CHINESE CITIZENS, THEY HAVE A LEGAL RIGHT TO RETURN TO THE MOTHERLAND AT ANY TIME.

3. THE COMMENTARIES DRAW UPON FOREIGN (MAINLY JAPANESE) PRESS REPORTS TO CITE THE VILENT AND BLOODY MEASURES TAKED "BY A FRIENDLY SOCIALIST COUNTRY AGAINST LEGAL FOREIGN RESIDENTS WHO ARE CITIZENS OF A FRATERNAL COUNTRY." THE PAPERS QUOTE REMARKS BY CHINESE LEADERS LIAO CHENG-CHIH AND ULANFU TO SHOW CHINA'S ANGER OVER THE DEPRIVATION OF CHINESE RIGHTS. THEY ALSO EXPRESS FEAR THAT CHINESE IN "SAIGON" WILL HAVE LITTLE CHANCE TO REACH THE SINO-VIETNAMESE BORDER.

3. ALTHOUGH THE COMMENTARIES ACKNOWLEDGE THAT HANOI'S RECENT ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE CAPITALISM WERE DUE TO INTERNAL ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, THEY SUGGEST THAT SOVIET MANIPULATION AND INSTIGATION IS A MAJOR MOTIVATING FACTOR. WHILE EXPRESSING THE BELIEF THAT SINO-VIETNAMESE "PEOPLE'S FRIENDSHIP" CAN NEVER BE UNDERMINED, THE PAPERS WARN THAT A DETERIORATION IN BILATERAL RELATIONS IS IN THE INTEREST OF ONLY THE SOVIETS. SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, REFUGEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HONGK05827
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780196-0083
Format: TEL
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780580/aaaacptm.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e29c2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2754481
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOCAL PRC-CONTROLLED PRESS ON CHINESE IN VIETNAM
TAGS: PEPR, SREF, SOPN, CH, VM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e29c2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014